

and resistance to the fundamental reforms necessary, I fear that Japan may actually need a crisis if it is ever to get its economic house in order. I hope that I am wrong and that Japan will begin to take the steps necessary to boost its economy and serve as an engine of economic growth. Clearly, it is in Japan's interest to do so, as it is in the interest of Asia and of the United States. Toward this end, we must all remain engaged in encouraging and persuading Japan to move forward.

Japan faces enormous challenges in the coming months and years, as does all of Asia. The challenges, however, are far from insurmountable. And global prosperity depends on meeting those challenges head-on. As I have outlined, the road back to prosperity and growth should be fairly clear, though in some instances, politically treacherous. The good news is that most of the steps on that road require increased economic liberalization, greater transparency and reduced regulation. If that road is taken, the Asian financial crisis will have had the positive result of moving the global economy toward a new level of growth and prosperity.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KENNETH EUGENE GRUBE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great journalist, but more important, a good friend: Kenneth Eugene Grube of Groton, Connecticut. Sadly, Mr. Grube recently died at the age of 76.

Ken Grube worked for 44 years as a newspaper editor and reporter, and he spent the last 25 years of his career in Southeastern Connecticut at The New London Day, where he was a managing editor and the long-time editorial page editor.

While he was at The Day, he was renowned for his emphasis on local topics, but he earned a regional and national reputation for his work. He served as President of the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and the Connecticut Circuit of the Associated Press. He was also a longtime member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers, and he edited the group's quarterly publication and served on its Professional Standards Committee.

In recognition of his outstanding career of newspaper achievement, he received the prestigious Yankee Quill Award from the New England Academy of Journalists.

The strong reputation that Ken Grube earned was based not only his journalistic talent, but also on his good will and commitment to serving his community.

In 1976, the New London County Bar Association gave him its award for outstanding public service. People don't necessarily think of journalists as public servants, but Mr. Grube showed an uncommon devotion to his community and he used his position to affect social change.

During his 15 years as editorial page editor, he would consistently focus on a particular topic, often on behalf of the poor and less fortunate, writing editorial after editorial until he had achieved the ends that he thought were best for his community and its people.

He also spent a great deal of his time away from the newspaper working with various organizations in the New London/Groton area. He was President of the Family Service Association of Southern New London County. He served on the board for Waterford Country School. And he helped found the local Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund.

He was also Chairman of the State Freedom of Information Commission, which is fitting because he was one of the leading journalists in the state who fought to pass a state law that would protect the availability of public information.

But aside from his many accolades and accomplishments, Ken Grube will be remembered as a newspaper man with a huge heart who genuinely cared about his readers. Everyone in town knew him, and he could often be seen in the restaurants and pubs in town striking up conversation with whom ever was around. For Mr. Grube, the most exciting stories didn't come from City Hall or the Capital, they came from Main Street. He believed that the primary role of any good reporter was to note the everyday events in people's lives, and he stayed true to this principle through his entire career.

Ken Grube performed countless good deeds in order to lift up others, and for that, we thank him. He was also a kind man and a good friend, and for that, we will miss him.

He is survived by four children and four grandchildren. I offer my heartfelt condolences to them all.●

#### THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today Tunisia celebrates the 42nd Anniversary of its Independence from France. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for their many successful endeavors of the past 42 years.

Last year, Tunisia and the U.S. celebrated the bicentennial of the "Treaty of Peace and Friendship." This celebration marked the longest unbroken friendship treaty in the history of the two countries. Throughout our long relationship the United States and Tunisia have experienced cooperation based on respect and our mutual commitment to freedom, democracy, and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Despite its location in a very volatile area of the world, Tunisia has been a leader in promoting stability and peace in Africa and the Middle East. It has been a voice of moderation in the Arab-Israeli peace process promoting dialogue and improved relations. It was the first Arab State to host an Israeli delegation and to hold a multilateral meeting of the peace process. In 1996, Tunisia and Israel opened interest sections in each country and established full diplomatic relations.

Tunisia also has made impressive economic strides. It has successfully

graduated from development assistance to become a self-sufficient nation. The people of Tunisia enjoy the highest standard of living in the region. These improvements have come about through the devotion of vital resources to the promotion of its people, education, and economic reform.

In the past 12 years, the government has focused its economic development on privatizing many of the state-owned companies and reforming the financial and banking systems. As a result, Tunisians have developed a diverse and market oriented economy where they have experienced not only domestic success but increased international standing. Tunisia is a member of the World Trade Organization and enjoys duty-free access to the European Union and most Arab countries.

Tunisia has been a friend and ally to the United States for many years. I look forward to continued cooperation and friendship in the years to come. As Tunisia celebrates its 42nd anniversary of independence, I offer my sincere congratulations on their many successful accomplishments.

#### IN HONOR OF BARBARA M. WHEELER

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my special privilege to take this opportunity to honor a woman from my home state of Illinois who has spent her career fighting to improve public education. For almost 25 years, Barbara M. Wheeler has served the students, teachers, and schools of Illinois as a champion of public education. Recently, her devotion and hard work was recognized by her peers when she was named President of the National School Boards Association.

Ms. Wheeler began her extraordinary career of public service by earning an undergraduate degree in Non-Western History from Saint Dominic College in 1969. In 1972, she received her Illinois Teaching Certificate from Elmhurst College. In 1974, Ms. Wheeler joined the Community High School District 99 Board of Education in Downers Grove, and served as President from 1976 to 1987, and again from 1994 to 1995. In 1980, Ms. Wheeler graduated from the Depaul University College of Law, and served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County from 1980 to 1982 before going into private practice.

While practicing law, Barbara Wheeler's service to the community continued. She has been an active member of the Illinois Association of School Boards, serving in 18 different positions including President (1987-1989) and Vice President (1985-1987). Additionally, Ms. Wheeler has spoke on educational matters before convention audiences around the nation, and has advised and consulted many groups, including the Chicago Board of Education, 57 school districts across Illinois, the New York School Boards Association and the Institute for Educational Leadership.